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Vincent Price Presents

The Price Is Right

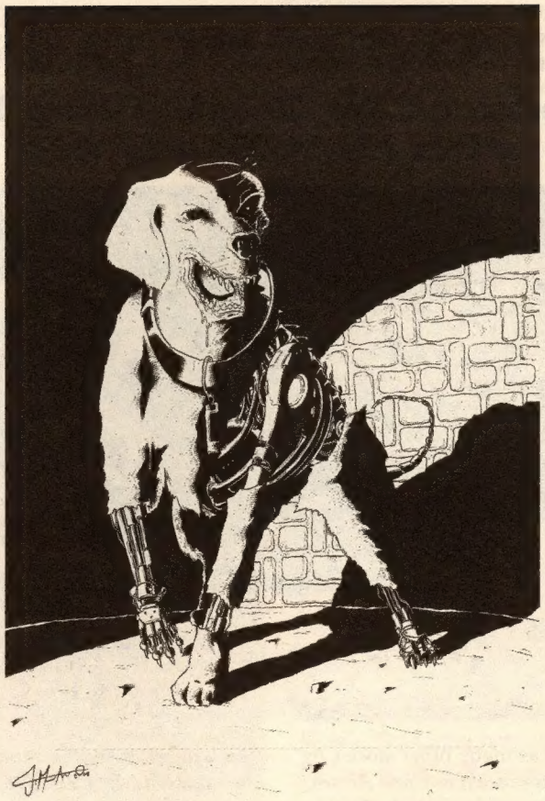
There is a virtual cinematic pantheon of actors so closely associated with horror and the macabre that they epitomize the medium. While some made their marks through their portrayals of monstrous creatures and supernatural beings, there is an elite group of performers who helped to define the medium through their on-screen presence—a presence that rarely required any makeup or special effects. And one of the most illustrious in that latter group was *Vincent Price*.

While Price's half-century-plus career saw him perform in a variety of roles, it was his horror work that made him famous—first for Universal and later for *Roger Corman* and American International Pictures, among other studios. And while there's no way to convey that unique voice on the printed page, Bluewater Productions is bringing Price's name, his prestigious reputation, and some of his cinematic roles to comics in their new line of ***Vincent Price Presents*** titles.

Publisher *Darren G Davis* explained how ***Vincent Price Presents*** came about. "After our success with *Ray Harryhausen* comics, we wanted to work with another film legend. In addition to continuing our work with the Harryhausen properties, we wanted to try something new. We tossed out some names of people that we liked, and *Vincent Price* was always at the top of everyone's short list. We find his body of work and presence on film to be really inspirational, so we wanted to recreate his legacy for a new generation of comic book readers. Not only are we developing sequels to his specific films, we are also developing gothic horror stories in the spirit of his legacy."

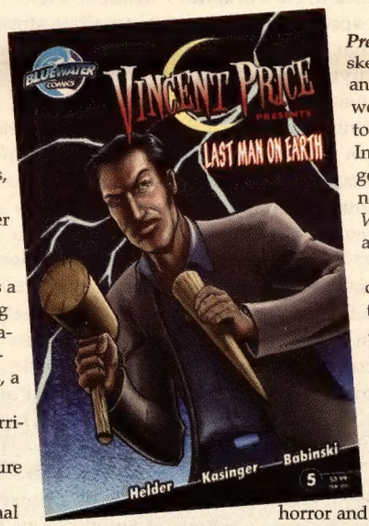
Is there anyone in film today whose body of work compares to Price's? "In some ways, *Tim Burton's* films also follow the legacy of *Edgar Allan Poe* that is closely connected with *Vincent Price's* film career. And as an actor, *Johnny Depp* has become a diverse, gothic icon like Price in works like ***Sweeney Todd*** and ***Edward Scissorhands***—which also, ironically, featured Vincent Price!"

The concept advanced from brainstorming to finished proposal very quickly. "Last fall, we decided that we wanted to expand our brand with a series of stories that feature gothic horror elements, but also contain new and innovative twists," Davis said. "Always the main focus was on good storytelling, as opposed to the gore of recent hack and slash horror. I was working with *Chad Helder* on ***Bartholomew of the Scissors***, which is a forthcoming horror comic with an exciting take on the genre, and we wanted to use the same vision for this new series. The result of the negotiation is the debut of ***Vincent Price Presents*** in the fall 2008."



The project will encompass a variety of approaches. "There will definitely be prominent story elements running throughout the series, including plots and characters. In some cases, we will extend plots over multiple issue story arcs, but there will also be stand-alone stories.

"At this point, the series features a weird menagerie of stories, including dark tales about a vampire concentration camp, a taxi cab driver who discovers a strange purpose to his fares, a scientist who finds himself trapped inside a mysterious world where horrifying things happen, and a boy who must confront a terrifying dog creature that is chained inside of his father's dungeon. In addition to these original stories, we're working on sequels to his film library, like ***Last Man on Earth, House on Haunted Hill,*** and ***The Raven***."



Which creators will work with Davis on ***Vincent Price Presents?*** "The lead writer for the series is *Chad Helder*, who is also working on the forthcoming ***Bartholomew of the Scissors***. Chad brings a unique gothic vision to the series. He has an background in studying the works of Poe, which really contributes to his understanding of *Vincent Price's* film legacy; it helps that he is also a huge fan.

"In addition, Bluewater writer *Scott Davis*, who wrote the sold-out series ***Ray Harryhausen Presents: 20 Million Miles More***, will also be contributing to the series. The vision for the artwork ranges from the avant-garde to the expressionistic to traditional sequential art. We really want to make this book unique and innovative in both artistic vision and storytelling. Some of the contributing artists will be *Rey Armenteros, Gio T, and Daniel Crosier*."

Will the books include any prose backup features--memories of her father's career by Victoria, overviews, anecdotes, etc.? "We plan on all the above," Davis said. "We want this to be more than just a license featuring pictures and concepts from Vincent Price's past. There are a couple of stories that he developed and did nothing with."

What role does Vincent Price play in the series? "*Vincent Price* will serve as a host who introduces the stories, the inspirational muse for the series, and as an iconic player who lingers in the background in some stories, and steps forward as the leading man in other stories."

Davis found the Price estate to be not only receptive, but enthusiastically supportive of the project. "We're working with *Victoria Price*, Vincent's daughter. When we contacted her about doing this comic series, she was really touched and excited about the series because it helps energize her father's legacy for a new generation. She told us that the estate is planning a big celebration for his 100th birthday in 2010, and this comic series fits into those plans perfectly."

Will ***Vincent Price Presents*** focus only on his horror and macabre roles, or will it expand to touch on his other work as well? "The stories for this series will primarily feature fantastical stories with gothic horror elements, but we will also include themes from his work in the mystery and suspense genres," Davis said.

Davis offered more information regarding the sequels that he mentioned earlier. "We're working with Legend films on a couple of sequels," Davis confirmed. "The first one we are doing is ***Last Man on Earth***. Legend Films is distributing the film in color for the first time ever. As a bonus, they will include the comic on the DVD as a feature. We also have plans for the Vincent Price classic ***House on Haunted Hill***. And we plan on using Vincent's likeness in some of the stories—for instance, ***Last Man on Earth*** features his likeness.

"Most of the comics will be re-imagined as sequels, because straight adaptations of the films lack the dynamic and imaginative qualities of Bluewater sequels. These are classic films that left people wanting to know what happened afterwards. These comics will satisfy the thirst for more while also adding imaginative updates for a contemporary audience."

What is the common link that will define ***Vincent Price Presents?*** "All of the stories take place in a slightly skewed, gothic landscape where all sorts of fantastic and unexpected things can happen. In some cases, as we've already discussed, the stories are an homage to genre films like Price's work with *Roger Corman*. In other instances, the stories are a new fusion of gothic and sci-fi elements. A story for this series needs to be connected to the gothic tradition of *Vincent Price*, but also needs some new innovative angle that makes the story fresh and dynamic. "

Ray Harryhausen... Vincent Price... any other celebrity-themed books in the works? "We're in talks with another *major* celebrity talking about doing a sci-fi line. This person is a sci-fi legend, but we can't announce it until we have everything signed. Trust me, this will be *huge*! Working with some of these celebrities is amazing—it's like reliving my childhood.

"We're also working on the *Ed Wood* classic ***Plan 9 From Outer Space...Strikes Again.*** Like the cult classic, this comic will combine campy horror and shocking quasi-absurdity. ***Tom Corbett: Space Cadet*** is an old 50's franchise that was on TV and in the bookstores—sort of a kids' version of ***Flash Gordon*** or ***Buck Rogers***. Both of those series will be out in first quarter of 2009."

Vincent Price Presents will debut from Bluewater Productions in October of 2008.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

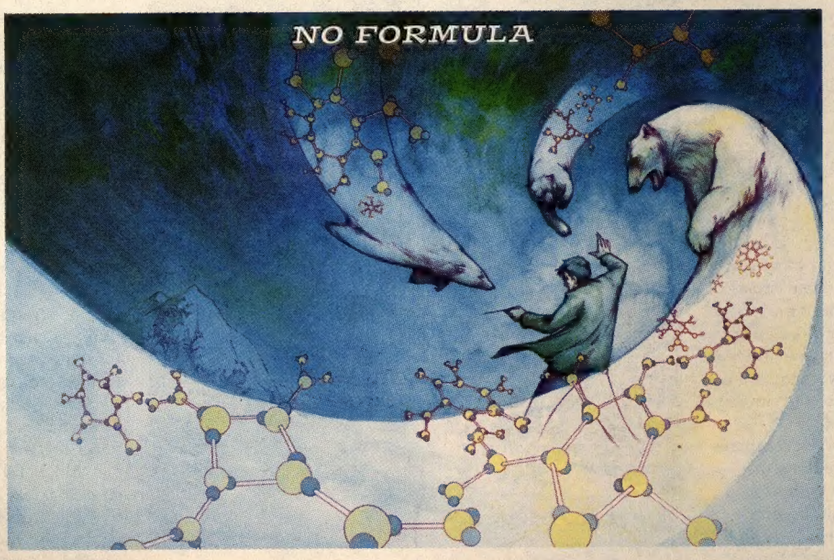
Better Living Through Chemistry

Joe Pruett of Desperado Publishing is an eclectic fellow with catholic tastes, so it shouldn't be surprising that he's taken in an interest in the Chemistry Set. In this case, however, the Chemistry Set is a talented collective responsible for Desperado's September book ***No Formula.***

So just who's behind the Chemistry Set? *Jim Dougan*, a member of the collective, offered some insight. "The Chemistry Set comics collective is the brainchild of *Vito Delsante, Neil Kleid,* and *Chris Arrant*. They were inspired by the cartooning collective ACT-I-VATE, which at the time operated under an auteur cartoonist model.

"As writers who worked with artists, they needed another outlet, so they started their own thing. They soon invited others (such as Elizabeth Genco and myself) to join them, and we went live in August 2006 with free online comics five days a week. We've been going strong and adding creators ever since. The genesis for the ChemSet was in New York, but our members live all over the globe: Australia, Finland, the Philippines, and the UK, just to name a few."

What brought them to Pruett's publishing company? "We began our relationship with Desperado when *Dean Haspiel* introduced me to Joe at the Baltimore Comicon in 2006. I gave Joe a print version of a comic of mine that was currently running on the Set ("A Little Friendly Advice", illustrated by *Eric Kim*), and he later inquired about running it in ***Negative Burn***. That was the beginning of a great relationship, as Joe has now featured five of my stories



in ***NB***, as well as many other stories by ChemSet creators such as *Chris Arrant, Elizabeth Genco,* and *Neil Kleid*. Earlier this year, Joe approached me about doing an anthology, and here we are!"

What sort of material will readers find in ***No Formula?*** "Readers can expect a collection of stand-alone stories that range from the heartfelt to the horrifying, from the mythological to the macabre, often all at the same time. Every story has a distinct point of view, yet there are common themes that run throughout: passion, loneliness, fear, love, and that unsettling feeling that maybe something's just – not – right.

"While there's a wider range of material on The Chemistry Set (humor, adventure, teen romance, you name it), in editing this anthology I wanted a cohesive set of stories that read well together, rather than a smorgasbord of wildly different styles and tones. Think of it as a comics mixtape."

Are there more books in the works? " We hope so!" Dougan said. "If ***Volume 1*** is successful enough, Joe might let us do ***Volume 2***. That would be great for a whole host of reasons, not the least of which is that there's so much great stuff by super-talented people on the ChemSet website that didn't make it into this book. We could fill a few more volumes."

While Dougan was reluctant to spotlight any particular pieces ("This is a little like picking a favorite child," he joked), he did offer a few comments on some of the pieces in ***No Formula.*** "*Elizabeth Genco & Sami Makkonen's* 'Yes, Mother' is to me, the centerpiece of the book. It's gorgeous and terrible, sweet and sad, all at the same time. Very much in the vein of Gaiman/McKean....

"*Chris Arrant & Jessica Hickman's* 'Snowblind' is short and sweet, one of the great ***Twilight Zone*** stories in the collection.

"'Dinner Date #9' is another favorite. *Steven Goldman's* story has so much heart, and *Rami Efal* makes some really interesting storytelling choices.

"And I would be remiss if I didn't mention my two contributions, not for myself but for my amazing collaborators. In 'Rest Stop,' *Michel Fiffe's* art is like the unholy love child of *Al Hirschfeld* and *Bernie Krigstein*. And in 'Come the Dawn,' *Hyeondo Park* takes mythological manga baroque to a whole new level.

"And just think: there are seven more great stories where that came from!"

No Formula Volume One, a 120-page trade paperback, is slated for September release.

CSNsider

•*Terry Moore* collects the first five issues of his new series ***Echo in*** trade this August. ***Terry Moore's Echo Volume 1: Silver Rain*** will supplement the story pages with Moore's development sketches and design notes. (And with Moore's ***Spider-Man Loves Mary Jane*** and ***Runaways*** debuting from Marvel the same month, there should be lots of people eager to read more Moore!)

•*Garth Ennis* sets out to explore the pure evil that lies within the human psyche in ***Crossed,*** which publisher Avatar Press describes as "the most twisted book of his career." Publisher *William Christensen* adds, "Certain to be the most depraved and corrupt book of the year, this one is not for the faint of heart." The series launches with a 16-page #0 in August—and Avatar assures readers that this isn't just a preview, but is an essential first chapter of the story, which features art by Avatar go-to guy *Jacen Burrows.*

•Move over, Archie—make room for the Simpsons! Bongo Comics takes Springfield's most famous family to the digest racks with the release of ***Simpsons Comics Treasure Trove #1,*** the kickoff of a quarterly 64-page digest series featuring classic Simpsons tales, beginning with a *Carl Barks*-inspired high seas adventure "Uncle Burns," and more.

•Cartoon Books offers an insightful look at the life and career of its star *Jeff Smith* in ***Jeff Smith: Bone & Beyond,*** a 96-page hardcover that supplements material by Smith with essays by *Neil Gaiman, Dave Filippi, & Scott McCloud.* This volume is published in conjunction with the Wexner Center and Cartoon Research Library's 2008 exhibition.

•About Comics offers readers a look at the lighter side of *Gail Simone* with ***You'll All Be Sorry,*** a paperback compilation of new non-fiction pieces and classics from her long-running on-line column; look for the 160-page book in August.

•Dynamite Entertainment collects the first fourteen issues of *Garth Ennis & Darick Robertson's* ***The Boys*** in one oversized hardcover appropriately entitled ***The Boys Definitive Edition.*** This slipcased hardcover will be produced to order—and for those who want the ultimate collectible edition, Dynamite will offer an ultra-limited ***The Boys High-End Edition,*** signed by Ennis and Robertson which includes a hand-drawn *Darick Robertson* sketch in each copy (which is why it commands a hefty $499.99 pricetag!).

•Desperado has an original ***Detectives Inc.*** graphic novel on the horizon—but

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they're paving the way for its release with August's ***Detectives, Inc.: A Remembrance of Threatening Green HC,*** presenting the classic *Don McGregor-Marshall Rogers* graphic novel along with a look back at the book's creation by *Don McGregor.*

•Devil's Due continues its reprinting of Golden Age tales from the Eisner/Iger Studios with ***Golden Age Sheena: The Best of the Queen of the Jungle Volume 2 TP,*** collecting classic comics from the 30s, 40s, and 50s. One of the highlights of this issue is a never-before-reprinted Sky Girl tale illustrated by Golden Age master *Matt Baker.*

•*Daniel Clowes'* ***Ghost World*** is presented in an expanded form in ***Ghost World: The Special Edition.*** This volume adds a new introduction and several pages of new strips by Clowes, along with over 200 pages of extras, including the film screenplay by Clowes and *Terry Zwigoff,* oodles of concepts drawings, notes, movie poster, and much more, all annotated by Clowes himself.

•***Galaxy Quest,*** the film that followed the cast of a cult SF TV series as they embarked on a real non-TV SF adventure, is returning in comics form courtesy of IDW. ***Galaxy Quest: Global Warning,*** finds actor Jason Nesmith and the rest of his cast/crew facing a world-threatening crisis on the eve of the relaunch of their TV series. *Scott Lobdell & Ilias Kyriazis* do the honors on this, the first of several ***Galaxy Quest*** miniseries in the works.

•Following the success of this spring's zero issue, ***Captain Action #1*** makes an August debut from Moonstone Comics, courtesy of Nicieza, Wolfman, Kupperberg, & Sparacio. The first issue also features the first Moonstone appearance of Mandrake the Magician by *Mike Bullock.*

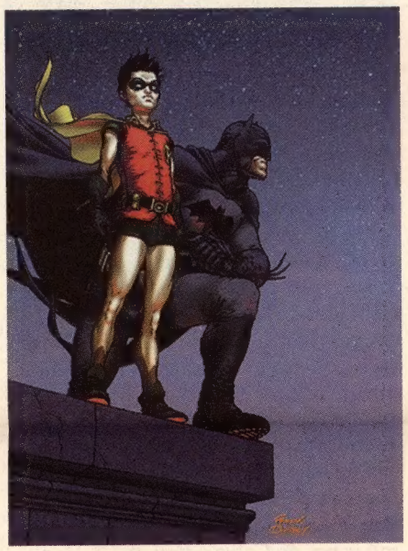
•The Master of Deduction and the Reporter of Distraction join forces in August in ***Sherlock Holmes & Kolchak, The Night Stalker: Cry of Thunder.*** *Joe Gentile, Andy Bennett, & Carlos Magno* do the honors on this tale that has two of fiction's most unique investigators trying to untangle the same mystery a century apart.

•***Atomic Robo*** returns this summer in a new limited series by *Brian Clevinger & Scott Wegener.* ***Atomic Robo: The Dogs of War*** pits Atomic Robo against Nazi super mechs in WWII—but does he stand a chance against Hitler's personal commando, Otto Skorzeny?

•Missed out on one or more of the first three issues of ***Hulk?*** Fret not—Marvel is readying a ***Hulk: Red Hulk Must-Have,*** which collects the first three issues behind a new cover by *Ed McGuinness.* Look for it in early July.

•Marvel has tapped *Lee Bermejo* to supply the art for the 2-for-25 (yep, you read it right... it's 2 for 25, not the usual 1 for 25) incentive variant cover for ***Astonishing X-Men #25.*** If you don't see it on the shelves the day the standard version of this book ships, though, it doesn't mean that you missed out—Marvel's shipping the variant for 7/23 release, three weeks after the regular issue reaches stores.

•Remember those ***Dark Knight 1:6 Scale Deluxe Collector Figures*** that we told you to look for in early July? Well, here's a situation almost unheard of in comics: the figures are actually shipping *early* and should be in stores this week or next! Both ***The Dark Knight: Batman 1:6 Scale Deluxe Collector Figure*** and ***The Dark Knight: The Joker 1:6 Scale Deluxe Collector Figure*** are based on the depictions of these iconic characters as seen in the mid-July-release ***Dark Knight*** film, the second in the new Batman franchise.



•Uh oh... those scheduling problems that *Frank Miller & Jim Lee* seemed to have overcome after the first few issues of ***All Star Batman & Robin, The Boy Wonder*** have reared their ugly heads again! ***All Star Batman #10,*** originally slated for late April release, has now been pushed back to mid-July. DC is optimistic that the problem won't be a recurrent one, though, since they now have #11 scheduled to follow just six weeks later, at the end of August.

•Don't worry if you can't find the *Boris Vallejo-Julie Bell* top-secret variant cover for ***Skaar: Son of Hulk #1;*** Marvel has announced that Vallejo will not be involved with the cover after all, and it will instead by a *Julie Bell* solo variant cover.

•When ***The Watchmen*** comes to theaters next spring, it won't be the only feature inspired by the legendary *Alan Moore-Dave Gibbons* graphic novel. Less than a week after the film's release, Warner will release a direct-to-DVD animated version of ***Tales of the Black Freighter,*** the comic-within-a-comic that plays a role in the ***Watchmen*** storyline. The animated film is also directed by *Zack Snyder,* and the DVD will also include a documentary, "Under the Hood," that explores the back stories of the characters. Warner is budgeting more money for this feature than for its typical animated release; the studio foresees eventually editing ***The Watchmen*** and ***Tales from the Black Freighter*** together into a deluxe DVD that more closely mirrors the blended structure of the graphic album, according to the ***New York Times.***

•Over at Marvel, former associate editor *Molly Lazer* and assistant editor *Aubrey Sitterson* have left the company; Lazer is going to graduate school, while Sitterson is now writing digital content for World Wrestling Entertainment (hey, it's almost the same as comics, isn't it?!).

•The Dabel Brothers have landed the right to adapt *Robert Jordan's* ***Wheel of Time*** series in comics form; look for the book to debut in early 2009.

•*Hoorah!* Word is out that the upcoming ***Captain America*** film will be set in WWII, focusing on the good Captain's Golden Age roots.

Hack/Slash: Re-Animation Ain't Kids' Stuff

Horror mash-ups have proven popular in recent years, so it's about time that Devil's Due gets into the game: later this summer, their popular ***Hack/Slash*** series will cross over with the *Brian Yuzna's* fictional milieu of the ***Re-Animator*** films, inspired by the work of horror great *H.P. Lovecraft.*

Writer/artist *Tim Seeley* and filmmaker *Brian Yuzna* explained to ***Comic Shop Newsarama's*** *Steve Ekstrom* how the project came about, and how it will fit in with ***Hack/Slash*** continuity. "I want to make sure I do crossovers that only totally make sense for the story," Seeley said." As a kid, I could always tell when an issue of a series had been shoehorned into a crossover event or saddled with a 'hot character appearance.'

So, when I was planning out these issues initially, Herbert instantly came to mind to fill an important role."

How did Seeley convince Yuzna to let him bring the two fictional realms together? "*Stefan Hutchinson* (writer of the ***Halloween*** comics for DDP) knew a guy who knew a guy, and he hooked me up with *Barry Keating,* who helps *Brian Yuzna* out. He and I started talking, and pretty quickly we had an outline and a syringe full of glowing green goo."

"After seeing some of the unauthorized ***Re-Animator*** crossover books out there, I thought it was time to have a *real* one," Yuzna explained. "I like the ***Hack/Slash*** comic—it has a perfect horror/comedy tone that I thought could work with ***Re-Animator.*** It isn't a perfect fit, because ***Hack/Slash*** has a mythology that can be a little different from the world of Herbert West and his 'Life is just a chemical reaction' logic—but for the most part, it works pretty well so far."

What's the premise of the story? "Essentially, readers will finally get to meet Cassie's long lost dad, a man we've been teasing the existence of since the first issue," Seeley said. "But ol' Jack Hack has some questionable connections, and we'll see how that affects his daughter and her big, meaty partner."

So Cassie's father is a direct link to the ***Re-Animator*** mythos? "We've seen that Jack has been involved in a government project involving Revenants, the fancy name for Slashers in the ***Hack/Slash*** universe," Seeley said. "Something the government really likes about these Revenants is that they reanimate. Herbert is also known to like to bring the occasional very cranky person back from the dead."

Was Yuzna involved with the comic, or was his role supervisory only? "I have been involved mainly insofar as the depiction of Herbert West and how the ***Re-Animator*** world goes," Yuzna said. "I have been in the loop on the covers and the scripts. Devil's Due has been very good about making sure that I am happy with things and has tried to compromise on any discrepancies I may have had.

"My only prerequisite was that *Barry Keating* be a part of the writing team and that I have approval over the depiction of the Herbert West character and the ***Re-Animator*** elements."

What makes the two concepts work so well together? ""***Re-Animator*** and **Hack/Slash** have similar aesthetics, the somewhat 'transgressive' ironic tone; it's a type of hardcore horror that is fun—for some reason this type of stuff attracts real dedication in the fans. I am a fan myself and love the horror films that I grew up with—just like the younger fans today who grew up with ***Re-Animator***—so it's a feeling I certainly understand," Yuzna said.

"Both, at their hearts, are humorous character sketches," Seeley added. "I think the black humor of both series makes them more fun than the standard grim and gritty scare fest, which, while is good for a scream, doesn't always pass the test of time. ***Re-Animator*** does—and I hope ***Hack/Slash*** will."

As it turns out, this won't the the only ***Re-Animator*** comics appearance. " I am working on a comic book version of the first movie right now," Yuzna said, "and I plan to go onto the second film after that. I'd also like to tell the story of what happened between the two films as well. I have a basic structure set up for at least three more films: ***House of the Re-Animator, Re-Animator Unbound,*** and ***Re-Animator Begins***. These films would complete the Herbert West Saga (as depicted in the movies).

"Since it is so difficult to finance and develop movies—I have discussed with my collaborators retelling the first stories and then introducing the additional material that has not made it onscreen yet. I have been working in comics and animation for the past few years and have found it to be just as much fun as film. Things move very quickly and you aren't so pressured to attract the broadest possible audience.

"I love the graphics of comics—my first experiences with horror were from reading horror comics when I was very young which happened a long time before I saw my first horror movie. Through working with horror comics recently, I've realized that it's just as thrilling for me to tell stories on paper as opposed to film. It's really about the story and the art of storytelling that gets me off."

Hack/Slash #15, featuring the first Re-Animator link, is scheduled for August release.

Coming Comics—Marvel in August

Dan Slott & John Romita Jr. introduce the new Anti-Venom in the six-part "New Ways to Die," which begins in ***Amazing Spider-Man #568.*** And in the first issue, *Mark Waid & Adi Granov* bring readers up to date with Original Venom, Eddie Brock!

Warren Ellis & Simone Bianchi continue their ***Astonishing X-Men*** relaunch in #26, which a reunited team with a new look, a new base of operations, and a mystery to solve that will take them into previously uncharted territory and test them to their core. It all starts on a spaceship hovering 300 hundred feet above the twisted wreckage of Chaparanga Beach. Its sole inhabitant: the mysterious Subject X. Five minutes -- just five minutes is all he needs, all he's asking for. Can the X-Men afford to give it to him?

The Skrull Kill Krew return in ***Avengers: The Initiative #16,*** courtesy of *Dan Slott, Christos Gage, & Stefano Caselli.* And they're ready to kill, maim, torture, and butcher every mother lovin'

Skrull out there! Also, back at Camp Hammond, Ant-Man is in a giant world of trouble...

Jason Aaron & Jefte Palo reveal how Wakanda deals with the Skrull invasion in ***Black Panther #40.***

The X-Men guest-star in ***Cable #6,*** a special double-sized issue by *Duane Swierczynski & Adi Granov.* In the aftermath of the "Messiah Complex" war, Cyclops took a leap of faith and allowed his son Cable to disappear into the time stream along with with the first new mutant birth since "M" day. Weeks later, he still waits for a sign, however small, that he made the right decision. With evidence pointing to the fact that Bishop has jumped into the timestream and is hot on Cable's trail, the X-Men's leader is about to make one final power move to protect the fate of mutantkind – one that he might come to regret.

The FF's emergency exploration of the worlds of fiction continues in ***Fantastic Four: True Story #2*** as they burst through the covers of Ivanhoe and start to gather an army against the onrushing darkness. And the surprise villain behind this whole weird collision is revealed.

Franklin Richards versus Ben Grimm? You got it—or you will, once you pick up *Mark Sumerak & Chris Eliopoulos'* ***Franklin Richards: Summer Smackdown,*** which presents this and four other silly showdowns.

Danny Ketch is back in ***Ghost Rider #26*** by *Jason Aaron & Tan Eng Huat.* But whose side is the former Ghost Rider on, and what familiar faces has he brought with him to the party?

Marvel's cosmic heroes have to figure out who they can trust in ***Guardians of the Galaxy #4*** by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Paul Pelletier.* Is there a Skrull amongst the Guardians? Maybe the recently returned and revamped Adam Warlock? Or Star-Lord, who now hides behind a mask? And a talking raccoon and a telepathic dog?

Hercules leads the ragged remains of his God Squad into desperate battle with the unimaginably powerful Skrull pantheon in ***Incredible Hercules #120*** by *Greg Pak, Fred Van Lente, & Rafa Sandoval* -- and if they lose, Earth dies!

A comic book fan's struggles to protect his world from the onslaught of comic book villains continues in ***Marvel 1985 #4*** by *Mark Millar & Tommy Lee Edwards.* This story will have major repercussions in the Marvel Universe of today...and tomorrow!

Brian Bendis & Khoi Pham explore the legacy of Captain Marvel in ***Mighty Avengers #17,*** a ***Secret Invasion*** tie-in. Plus, Marvel Boy is confronted with his true destiny.

Moon Knight has been an eyesore to the Initiative...and he's about to pay the price. With Tony Stark forced onto the sidelines, Norman Osborn has been tapped to bring in the fugitive super hero – by all means necessary. Witness the hunt in ***Moon Knight #21*** by *Mike Benson & Mark Texeira.*

In *Brian Reed & Adriana Melo's* ***Ms. Marvel #30,*** Ms. Marvel discovers the Skrulls' dark secret hidden away within

Riker's Island. Something even worse than the armies already rampaging across the Earth? Most definitely...

As the Illuminati gather in ***New Avengers #44,*** Marvel's most covert gathering of heroes has a secret so dark that they never speak of it, even to each other. And it could be what has brought about the ***Secret Invasion***. What is it? *Brian Bendis & Billy Tan* tell all in this ***Secret Invasion*** tie-in.

Simon Spurrier & Eric Nguyen explore the history and the mythos of ***Newuniversal*** in ***Newuniversal: Conqueror.*** Five thousand years ago, civilization was held in the mighty hand of the slayer called Starr, who defended his kingdom from all invaders. But what were these invaders? Simple monsters...or something more?

Why is Nova hanging out with Super Skrull? Find out in ***Nova #16*** by *Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning, & Wellington Alves.*

NYX return in ***NYX: No Way Home,*** a new six-part series by *Marjorie Liu & Kalman Andrasofszky.* The series focuses on young mutant Kiden Nixon, who's survived the hard streets of Manhattan to build a home and a family for herself. But with fewer than 200 mutants left on the planet, Kiden's become a target—and when somebody strikes at one of her friends, Kiden's going to find out just how much farther she can fall!

Garth Ennis concludes his epic run in ***Punisher #60,*** as Frank Castle wages war against the men of influence and privilege who used their power and money to shield themselves from the Punisher's wrath... but it looks like it was a bad investment on their part! This issue also contains an eight-page preview of ***Punisher #61,*** the first issue by the new creative team of *Gregg Hurwitz & Laurence Campbell,* which ships two weeks later.

Garth Ennis's first shot at the Punisher is reprinted in ***Punisher Kills the Marvel Universe,*** a oneshot that reveals just how much damage heavy-caliber weapons can do to superheroes.

Terry Moore & Humberto Ramos launch a whole new era for the teen children of villainous parents in ***Runaways #1,*** as the Runaways run back to Los Angeles with your favorite teen heroes. But it's not the same city they left so long ago...

Embrace change. With these two words the Skrull Empire declares their intentions to the entire Marvel Universe. And readers will learn what those intentions are in ***Secret Invasion #5*** by *Brian Bendis & Leinil Yu.*

The hunt for Black Bolt begins in ***Secret Invasion: Inhumans,*** a four-part limited series by *Joe Pokaski & Tom Raney.* He was replaced by the Skrulls in ***New Avengers: Illuminati;*** now it's time to find out if the Inhumans' former king is dead or alive!

The Skrulls are heading for Asgard, and they've got the gods in their sights! But it's not just the pantheon who stand to suffer the repercussions of the aliens' secret invasion -- the citizens of small-town Broxton, Oklahoma are about to become collateral damage in the attack...and the God of Thunder must defend two cites at once! For a job this big, Thor will have to turn to one of his oldest and closest allies...Beta Ray Bill! See the Skrulls face off against dual hammer-wielders in ***Secret Invasion: Thor #1*** by *Matt Fraction & Doug Braithwaite.*

It's aliens vs. mutants as the Skrull Invasion hits the West Coast in ***Secret Invasion: X-Men #1*** by *Mike Carey & Cary Nord.* The Skrulls don't expect the X-Men when they hit San Francisco, but don't think they don't have something very special prepared for Cyclops and his army when they find them at their new home.

We know where Spidey is during ***Secret Invasion***—but what about the rest of his Brand New Day cast? Find out what how they deal with the Skrull invasion in ***Secret Invasion: Spider-Man—Brand New Day #1*** by *Brian Reed & Marco Santucci.*

Okay, we know that Jazinda, She-Hulk's fellow bounty hunting partner, claims she's not part of the alien invasion...but can you ever trust a Skrull? Especially one who's the daughter of the infamous Super-Skrull? Find out in ***She-Hulk #32*** by *Peter David & Vencenzo Cucca.*

Terry Moore & Craig Rousseau relaunch Mary Jane's solo series with the relaunch of ***Spider-Man Loves Mary Jane.*** It's the beginning of a new high school year. MJ finally feels like she's got her life in order. Good friends, good classes, good relationship with a certain Wall-Crawler...but is there someone behind the scenes that's got it in for our rambunctious redhead?

Marvel features a pair of out-of-continuity Spidey tales in ***Spider-Man Summer Special.*** First, Spidey teams up with Falcon to handle an outbreak of futuristic weaponry showing up in Harlem, and then Mary Jane takes center stage as she teams up with She-Hulk, Hellcat, Marvel Girl and some other lovely ladies to take on The Enchantress.

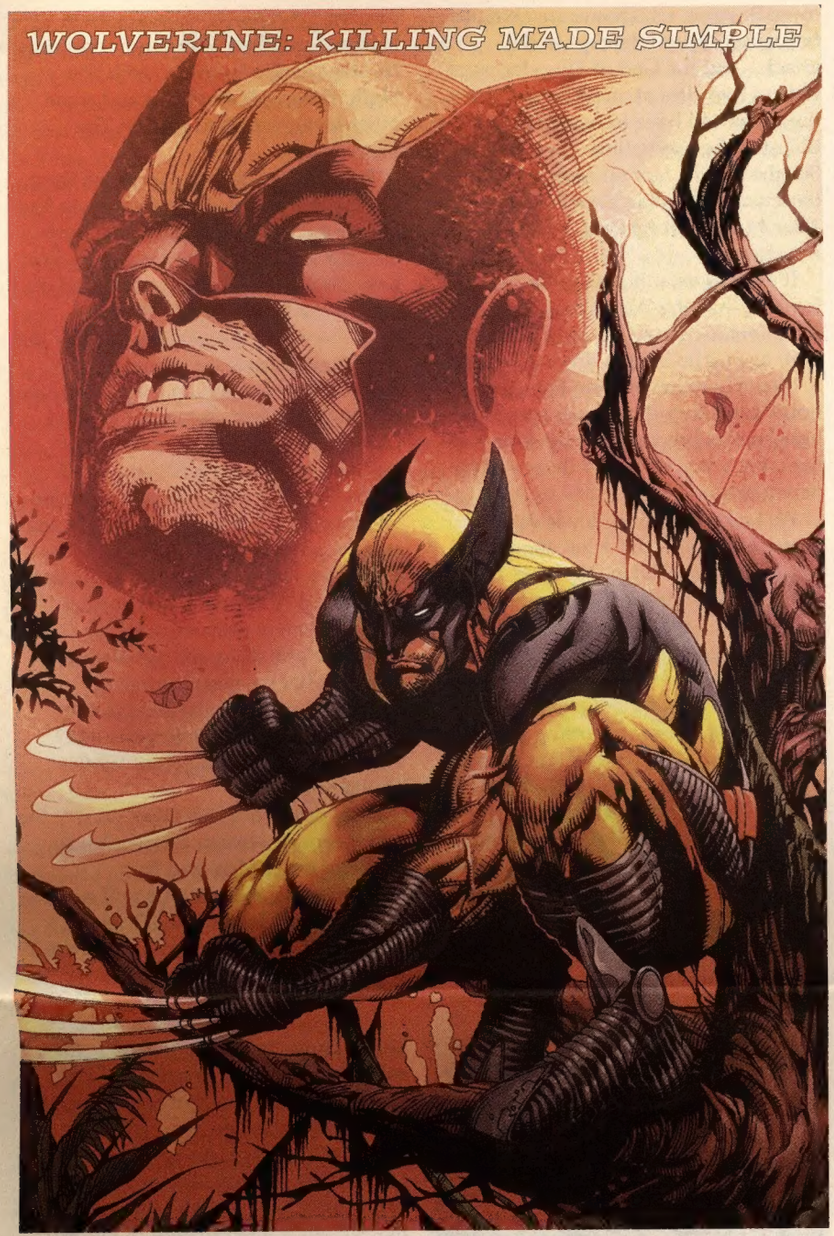
Four astronauts have returned from the moon...changed. And Ultimate Nick Fury, Emil Burbank, & Arcanna Jones have found them. Fury's hip-deep in a new conspiracy—but the only kind of conspiracy he likes is one he creates...So what's he going to do now that new super heroes are appearing all around America, taking the place of the missing Squadron Supreme? *Howard Chaykin & Marco Turini* answer that question in ***Squadron Supreme 2 #2.***

The Skrull armada rains destruction on our nation's capitol! The only thing standing in their way? The Thunderbolts. But if salvation depends on a group of criminals and madmen who can barely keep from killing each other, is Earth doomed? Or are they exactly what we need against the merciless alien invaders? *Christos Gage & Fernando Blanco's* ***Thunderbolts #123*** marks a major turning point for the Thunderbolts.

Brian Bendis & Butch Guice present the first meeting between Charles Xavier, leader of the X-Men, and Eric Lehnsherr, the mutant who will come to be known as Magneto, in ***Ultimate Origins #3***—and readers can expect further revelations regarding the Ultiverse's secrets.

The team settles into its new secret headquarters in ***Uncanny X-Men #501,*** as *Ed Brubaker, Matt Fraction, & Greg Land* reveal the details of Scott's secret project. But plans go awry when the Hellfire Cult makes an appearance.

Zeb Wells & Angel Medina present a compelling look at Eddie Brocker's malevolent transformation in ***Venom: Dark Origin,*** a five-issue limited series



that shed a little light on one of Marvel's darkest monsters!

The aged Logan and the blind archer Hawkeye continue their odyssey across a ruined America in ***Wolverine #68*** by *Mark Millar & Steve McNiven.* In this issue, they cross paths with the man who killed Magneto: the all-new, all-different Kingpin. And he isn't about to let Logan and Hawkeye pass unless they pay the toll…

Marvel presents a pair of Logan tales in ***Wolverine: Killing Made Simple.*** First up, *Christopher Yost & Koi Turnbull* pit Wolverine against Nanny and Orphan-Maker; then *Todd Dezago & Steve Kurth* send Logan to the Arctic Circle, where there's always one more way to die…

Trapped in a future she never made, Layla Miller finds herself smack in the middle of the Summers rebellion that was responsible for the eventual liberation of mutants from the camps in *Peter David & Valentine De Landro's* ***X-Factor Special: Layla Miller.***

Sean McKeever & Mike Mayhew explore the past of one of Marvel's most powerful in ***X-Men Origins: Jean Grey.*** From the moment Professor Xavier arrived on her doorstep, young Jean Grey knew things would change forever. But she was never prepared for how strange life at the Xavier Institute could be—or just how dangerous she truly was.

Marvel collected editions include:

- ***Clandestine: Blood Relatives Premiere HC,*** collecting the five-issue miniseries by *Alan Davis;*
- ***Dark Tower: The Long Road Home HC,*** collecting the five-issue miniseries inspired by *Stephen King's* epic saga;
- ***Dead of Night Featuring Man-Thing TP,*** collecting the four-part Marvel MAX miniseries;
- ***Elektra by Frank Miller Omnibus HC,*** a ***DD Miller Omnibus*** companion volume that collects ***Elektra: Assassin #s 1-8, Elektra Lives Again, Bizarre Adventures #28, & What If? #35;***
- ***Essential Man-Thing Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Man Thing #s 15-22, Man-Thing v2 #s 1-111, Giant-Size Man-Thing #s 3-5, Marvel Team-Up #68, Marvel Two-In-One #43, & Doctor Strange #41*** in a hefty 536-page black-and-white compendium;
- ***Fantastic Four Visionaries: Walter Simonson Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***FF #s 342-346;***
- ***Foolkiller: Fool's Paradise TP,*** collecting the five-part Marvel MAX miniseries;
- ***Hulk: Heart of the Atom Premiere HC,*** collecting the Hulk's subatomic adventures from ***Incredible Hulk #140, 148, 156, 202-203, 205-207, 246-248, & What If? #23;***
- ***Immortal Iron Fist Volume 2: The Seven Capital Cities of Heaven TP,*** collecting ***Immortal Iron Fist #s 8-14 & Annual #1;***
- ***Logan Premiere HC,*** collecting the three-part miniseries by *Brian K. Vaughan & Eduardo Risso* (this book will be offered in both color and black and white editions);
- ***Marvel Adventures Hulk Volume 3: Strongest One There Is Digest,*** collecting ***Marvel Adventures Hulk #s 9-12;***
- ***Marvel Adventures Iron Man Volume 3: Hero by Design Digest,*** collecting ***Marvel Adventures Iron Man #s 9-12;***
- ***Marvel Illustrated: The Picture of Dorian Gray Premiere HC,*** collecting the six-part *Oscar Wilde* adaptation;
- ***Marvel Masterworks: The Amazing Spider-Man Volume 10 HC,*** collecting ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 88-99;***
- ***Marvel Masterworks: Golden Age Marvel Comics Volume 3 HC,*** collecting the ultra-rare ***Marvel Mystery #s 9-12;***
- ***New Exiles Volume 1: New Life, New Gambit TP,*** collecting ***New Exiles #s 1-6;***
- ***New Warriors Volume 2: Thrashed TP,*** collecting ***New Warriors #s 7-13;***
- ***New X-Men by Grant Morrison Ultimate Collection Book 2 TP,*** collecting ***New X-Men #s 127-141;***

- ***Official Handbook of the Marvel Universe A to Z Volume 4 Premiere HC,*** covering Elf with a Gun to Guardians of the Galaxy;
- ***Punisher War Journal Classic Volume 1 TP,*** collecting the original ***Punisher War Journal #s 1-8,*** featuring lots of *Jim Lee* art;
- ***She-Hulk Volume 6: Jaded TP,*** collecting ***She-Hulk #s 22-27;***
- ***Spider-Man J: Turning Japanese Digest,*** collecting the manga backup from ***Spider-Man Family #s 1-6;***
- ***Spider-Man: Kraven's Last Hunt TP,*** collecting the six-parter by DeMatteis & Zeck;
- ***Spider-Man Loves Mary Jane Volume 2 HC,*** collecting ***Spider-Man Loves Mary Jane #s 6-20;***
- ***Spider-Man: One More Day TP,*** collecting the story arc that reset Spidey continuity and did away with his marriage;

- ***Thunderbolts by Warren Ellis Volume 2: Caged Angels Premiere HC,*** collecting ***Thunderbolts #s 116-121;***
- ***Tomb of Dracula Omnibus Volume 1 HC,*** a hefty 768-page oversized volume collecting ***Tomb of Dracula #s 1-31, Werewolf by Night #15, Giant-Size Chillers #1, & Giant-Size Dracula #s 2-4;***
- ***The Twelve Volume 1 Premiere HC,*** collecting the first issues of the maxiseries by *J. Michael Straczynski & Chris Weston;*
- ***Ultimate Spider-Man Volume 20: Ultimate Spider-Man & His Amazing Friends TP,*** collecting ***Ultimate Spider-Man #s 118-122;***
- ***X-Men: Legacy—Divided He Stands Premiere HC,*** collecting ***X-Men: Legacy #s 208-212;***
- ***Mighty Avengers Volume 1: The Ultron Initiative TP,*** collecting the first six-issue story arc;
- ***Wolverine: Get Mystique TP,*** collecting ***Wolverine #s 62-65;***
- ***X-Men: The Complete Onslaught Epic Book 3 TP,*** featuring 248 more pages of

Onslaught drama;

- ***X-Men: Divided We Stand TP,*** collecting ***X-Men: Divided We Stand #s 1-2 & X-Men: Messiah Complex—Mutant Files;*** and
- ***Young Inhumans TP,*** collecting *Sean McKeever's* ***Inhumans #s 1-12.***

Coming Comics—Image in August

Top Cow continues their major summer event starring Witchblade, the Darkness, and the Angelus in ***Broken Trinity #2*** by *Ron Marz & Stjepan Sejic.* By the end of Broken Trinity, a new balance of power will be forged as new players are introduced and at least one established character will be gone forever. The team that dazzled readers with ***First Born*** is back to change the face of the Top Cow Universe one more time in spectacular fashion.

Phil Hester & Jorge Lucas launch the first of three ***Broken Trinity*** tie-ins with ***Broken Trinity: The Darkness.*** Depowered and alone, Jackie Estacado latches on to the only two people in the world he still cares about: Sara Pezzini and her baby, Hope. So when the man he's hired to watch them doesn't check in, Jackie makes his way back to New York City. But he quickly realizes the journey home is littered with obstacles...

Following the discovery of a mysterious hidden planet in our solar system a series of horrible deaths occur at an isolated observatory, leading investigators to an alien plot that threatens all life on Earth by a guard of unstoppable ghostly alien creatures. Witness the plot unfold in ***Devoid of Life,*** an original graphic novel by *Raffaele Ienco.*

Steve Niles & Francesco Francavilla continue Image's line of *Frank Frazetta*-inspired comics with ***Frank Frazetta's Dracula Meets the Wolf-Man.*** In the wake of the legendary Count Dracula's "final" excursion to England, the bloodthirsty count finds himself on the hunt for a beautiful peasant woman in a village living in the shadows of Dracula's castle. Unfortunately for the seductive Count, someone else has eyes for the beauty, and that someone else just happens to be the Wolf-Man...

The end times have been canceled, but some pockets of Hell didn't get the memo. Heaven chooses a dimwitted, kindhearted, foul-mouthed carnival ride repairman to wage war on any demonic forces still bent on starting something come Judgment Day. Witness the results in ***Golly #1*** by *Phil Hester & Brook Turner.*

Who better to combat a guerilla war than monkeys? (Yeah, we know... gorillas and monkeys ain't the same thing... but sometimes you gotta sacrifice accuracy for a pun, y'know?) As the Vietnam War continues to drag on, the U.S. decides to implement their new secret weapon—monkeys! *Brahm Revel's* ***Guerillas*** follows a troop of specially trained chimpanzees and the lone human soldier brought along for the ride.

It's a monster mash-up! Or more specifically, an ***Image Monster Pile-Up.*** This special issue features four all-new stories of ***Astounding Wolf-Man, Firebreather, Perhapanauts,*** and ***Proof,*** produced by the series' regular creative teams. What better way to try out a quartet of fan-fave Image titles?

Two never-brought-to-justice serial killers—the Boston Strangler and the Zodiac Killer—settle into life in the Shady Lane Retirement Home in ***The Roberts,*** a two-part miniseries by *Wayne Chinsang & Erik Rose.* Surrounded by bingo tournaments and tea times, these two notorious serial killers quietly trade "war stories" about their golden years, two seemingly parallel pasts filled with violence and victims.

Dwight L. MacPherson & Avery Butterworth continue the dream exploits of Edgar Allan Poo in ***The Surreal Adventures of Edgar Allan Poo Book 2.***

It's a clash of the titans as the forces of the Nightmare King collide with the armies of Terra Somnium in a battle to decide the fate of the Dream Child! In the end, Edgar Allan Poo must stand alone to rescue his mother and prevent the dark lord from trapping him in the realm of dreams forever.

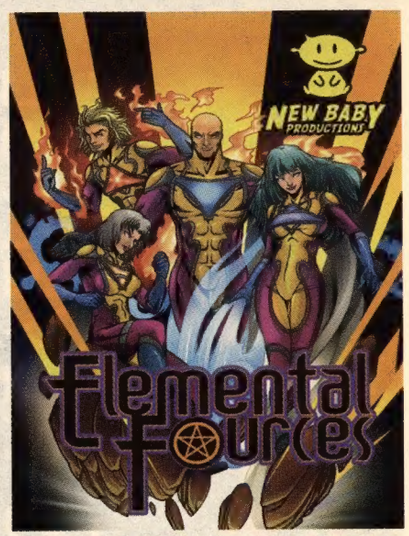
J.G. Jones' cover art for ***Wanted*** is featured in the 24" x 36" ***Wanted Poster.***

Image collected editions include:

- ***Invincible: The Ultimate Collection Volume 4 HC,*** an oversized volume collecting *Robert Kirkman's* ***Invincible #s 36-47;***
- ***Hawaiian Dick Volume 3: Screaming Black Thunder TP,*** collecting the first six issues of the newest ***Hawaiian Dick*** tiki-terror series;
- ***New World Order: Dawn of a New Day TP,*** collecting the series by *Gus Higuera, Giuseppe de Luca, & Mansyur Darman* along with bonus pages and other extras;
- ***Runes of Ragnan TP,*** collecting the sword and sorcery series by *Ty Gorton, Josh Medors, & Jay Fotos;*
- ***Tellos Colossal Volume 2 HC,*** collecting all the other ***Tellos*** material beyond the original ten-issue miniseries;

- ***Wanted Movie Edition TP,*** a tie-in reissue of the *Mark Millar-J.G. Jones* miniseries that's the basis for this summer's film; and

- ***Witchblade: Origins Volume 2 TP,*** collecting ***Witchblade #s 9-17.***



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